

ANGLO-SAXON PLACE-NAMES

The Anglo-Saxons spoke Old English. Some place-names still contain Old English words. This helps archaeologists find where the Anglo-Saxons lived.

Old English words in place-names and their

meanings

buhr (<i>modern word</i> <i>borough</i>)	fortified town
burn	stream
bury	fortified place
combe	small valley
cot	small hut/house
dun	hill
ford	shallow river crossing
ham	village
holt	wood
hurst	wooden hill
ing	people
lea / ley	clearing in a wood
stoc / stoke	outlying farm/settlement
stow	meeting / holy place
ton/tun	house or village
Wic / wick / wich	farm
worth	fenced land

Anglo-Saxon place-names often included people's names.

Here are some examples of Anglo-Saxon place-names:

Oxford was *Oxen Ford* meaning river crossing for Oxen

Nottingham was *Snottingham* meaning village of Snot's people

Codford was *Codda's Ford* meaning the river crossing belonging to Codda

Athelhampton was *Athelhelm's Ton* meaning Athelhelm's farm

Create your own Anglo-Saxon place-names: